



STEVEN M. FULOP  
MAYOR OF JERSEY CITY

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### ***Mayor Fulop, Councilman Rivera, and Recreation Director Strother Announce \$173,500 Baseball Tomorrow Fund Grant for Field Lighting and Scoreboard at Berry Lane Park***

***Grant will Provide Nearly 900 More Jersey City Children Ability to Play Baseball as Mayor Fulop Continues to Expand Recreational Programming Throughout Jersey City***

JERSEY CITY – Nearly 900 more Jersey City children and teenagers will now be able to play baseball when Berry Lane Park opens thanks to a **\$173,500 grant** from the **Baseball Tomorrow Fund** to install Musco Lighting equipment and a scoreboard at the facility as **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** continues to expand recreational programming throughout Jersey City.

The grant, which was awarded through the **Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF)**, follows the announcement last month that the administration has fast-tracked completion of Berry Lane Park with construction to be finished by the end of this year. **The Baseball Tomorrow Fund** is a joint initiative between **Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association**. The field lighting equipment will be provided at a significant discount through a partnership between BTF and **Musco Lighting, Inc.**, a leader in the sports lighting industry.

“Our vision for Berry Lane Park is that it will not only be the largest municipal park in Jersey City, but that it will be a place where our children can become active members of sports teams, learning valuable life lessons to use on and off the field,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “This grant will help us extend the hours of use, providing nearly 900 more Jersey City children positive recreational opportunities right in their own neighborhood.”

“The Baseball Tomorrow Fund is proud to support the development of Berry Lane Park,” said **Cathy Bradley**, Executive Director of the Baseball Tomorrow Fund. “On behalf of Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association, we thank the City for its inclusion of a quality and safe youth baseball and softball field in the park to provide more opportunities for kids to learn and enjoy the game. A special thanks our partner, Musco Lighting, for its continued support of much-needed projects like this one across the country.”

“Musco is proud to support the efforts made by the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, helping communities across the nation expand America's favorite pastime,” said **Musco Sales Representative Dan Shalloo**. “We’re excited to see the impact the grant will have in Jersey City, as it supports the development of field lighting opportunities at Berry Lane Park.”

(more)

The new complex will extend practice hours, game hours, and recreational hours to significantly expand access to opportunities to play baseball for boys and girls throughout Jersey City. Currently, there are approximately 3,100 participants ages five to 18 in recreation-sponsored and non-profit baseball and softball leagues, or nine percent of all eligible boys and girls.

The new lighted field at Berry Lane Park will provide roughly 300 more hours of playable time per year and help the Recreation Department reach its goal of enrolling an additional 900 youth, so that one in every 10 children in Jersey City is playing baseball.

“When you give a child a baseball glove, you are providing him or her with more than just a fun new pastime,” said **At-Large Councilman Daniel Rivera, who has been a little league coach to more than 12,000 Jersey City kids over the past 25 years.** “You are also providing that child with life-long skills of fitness, team building, confidence, and the hope that anyone who works hard can achieve their dream.”

Recognizing the need for a more varied recreational lineup, since taking office Mayor Fulop has increased the recreation budget by approximately 25 percent and has added 22 new programs. Recreation now offers scuba, boxing, cricket, and fitness programs like Men’s Health Open Recreation and yoga, as well as programs for our special needs athletes such as soccer and an autism quiet swim.

“This is a great opportunity for Jersey City and will allow us to offer the first recreation-department sponsored baseball and softball clinics since 2011,” said **Ryan Strother, Director of the Recreation Department.** “As we continue to expand programs and recreational offerings, it will be great to see hundreds of new boys and girls pick up the sport of baseball at Berry Lane Park.”

Berry Lane Park is an ambitious project that will ultimately transform a 17-acre brownfield of former rail yards, junkyards and industrial facilities into a **dynamic recreational facility** in the heart of the city as part of Mayor Fulop’s commitment to invest in and enhance the quality of life of previously overlooked neighborhoods.

The park will include two basketball courts, two tennis courts, a baseball field, a soccer field, a dog run, a spray park, a skatepark, an adult fitness course and a playground. These active recreation components will provide opportunities to this neighborhood where more than 60 percent of residents are children under 18 years of age. When complete, the project will result in a **nine percent increase in the amount of recreational open space** in Jersey City.

#### **About the Baseball Tomorrow Fund**

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF) is a joint initiative between the Major League Baseball Players Association and Major League Baseball designed to promote the growth of youth baseball and softball throughout the world by awarding grants to support field renovation and construction projects, equipment and uniform purchases, coaches training material and other selected program expenses. Since its formation by the MLBPA and MLB in 1999, BTF has awarded more than 800 grants totaling over \$27 million to non-profit and tax-exempt organizations in the U.S., Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa and Asia. BTF also facilitates league-wide initiatives including the collection and distribution of new and gently used equipment to organizations in need as well as field maintenance education clinics. For more information, visit [baseballtomorrowfund.com](http://baseballtomorrowfund.com) and follow BTF on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [MLBlogs](#).

#### **About Musco Lighting, Inc.**

Musco Sports Lighting, a proud partner of the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, has specialized in the design and manufacture of athletic field lighting for over 35 years. Recognized around the globe as the world-class leader in sports lighting, Musco’s Green Generation Lighting® enhances the playing of America’s favorite pastime while cutting energy costs and the impact on the environment. Working with many prestigious organizations worldwide, Musco has played a key role in developing guidelines for safe, efficient sports facilities. Musco is a proud partner with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Little League® Baseball and Softball, Babe Ruth League, Minor League Baseball, and the Amateur Softball Association. For more about Musco Sports Lighting, visit [www.musco.com](http://www.musco.com).

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary for Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.////**

Rendering of Berry Lane Park Lighting and Scoreboard:



JERSEY CITY RECREATION												
AT	17	BALL 3		STRIKE 2		OUT 2						
BAT	17	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	RUNS	
GUEST	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0		5	
HOME	0	2	0	1	0	1	2	0			6	

